

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 01472 311910Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 NSF-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

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R 311340Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6621

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI/AFB J0424/J3

AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD/DOSF/ROUTINE

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI/CSD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1472

E. O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: OTRA, IN (MARSHALL, DR. ROBERT), OSCI

SUBJECT: US MILITARY CONNECTIONS WITH NSF PROJECTS

REF: AFSC R282020Z JAN 75 (EFTO)

BEGIN SUMMARY. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THROUGH RETEL, AFTER FOUR YEARS OF CORRESPONDENCE, OF USAF'S ASSOCIATION WITH AND NSF RESEARCH PROJECT. THE GOI, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, STILL DOES NOT KNOW OF THE CONNECTION. WE WILL, OF COURSE, NOW ENSURE THAT THEY DO, BUT ARE CONCERNED WHETHER THERE MAY BE OTHER NSF OR OTHER US AGENCY PROJECTS SIMILARLY ASSOCIATED WITH US MILITARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS AND OF WHICH WE AND THE GOI ARE AS YET UNAWARE. THIS WOULD EXCLUDE THE ONGOING ONR AND EOAR PROJECTS THAT WERE CLEARED BY GOI WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUPPORTING AGENCY. THE POTENTIAL RISKS FOR THE ENTIRE INDO-US SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION PROGRAM OF INADVERTENTLY INVOLVING THE GOI WITHOUT ITS KNOWLEDGE (OR OURS) IN ASSOCIATION WITH US MILITARY SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS ARE SERIOUS.  
END SUMMARY.

1. IN DECEMBER 1970, THE GOI NATIONAL SCREENING COMMITTEE CLEARED THE REFERENCED RESEARCH PROJECT (GROWTH & PERFECTION  
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 01472 311910Z

OF SEMICONDUCTING CRYSTALS) WHICH WAS ULTIMATELY FORWARDED

TO THE EMBASSY IN FEBRUARY 1971 REQUESTING US SUPPORT. THE PROJECT WAS DEVELOPED BY DR. P. KRISHNA OF THE BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY WORKED IN THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT OF THE USAF CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH LABORATORIES IN BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS WITH DR. ROBERT C. MARSHALL. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO INDICATION FROM THE CLEARED PROJECT THAT MARSHALL WORKED FOR THE USAF. THIS PROJECT WAS CAUGHT IN THE GOI FREEZE THAT WAS INTRODUCED AFTER THE 1971 WAR ON ANY NEW JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS BETWEEN THE US AND INDIA. A REQUEST BY NSF THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WAS MADE IN FEBRUARY 1974 FOR DR. MARSHALL TO VISIT INDIA IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PROJECT. AT THAT TIME THE EMBASSY SUGGESTED THAT DR. MARSHALL POSTPONE HIS VISIT UNTIL WE WERE ASSURED THERE WOULD BE A PROJECT. IN APRIL 1974 THE FREEZE WAS LIFTED AND THE NSF DECIDED TO SUPPORT THE SUBJECT RESEARCH PROJECT AND NAMED DR. MARSHALL AS THE U. S. COLLABORATING SCIENTIST. THE FIRST PAYMENT WAS MADE ON THIS PROJECT IN JULY 1974.

2. IT HAS NOW COME TO OUR ATTENTION THROUGH THE REFTEL REQUEST FROM THE U.S. AIR FORCE FOR DR. MARSHALL TO VISIT INDIA THAT HE IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE U. S. MILITARY. WE DO NOT HAVE ON RECORD IN OUR FILES, NOR DO WE HAVE ANY PRIOR KNOWLEDGE, THAT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT WAS INFORMED THAT DR. MARSHALL IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE U. S. AIR FORCE. ALL OF THE DOCUMENTS INVOLVED IN THE JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT WITH BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY THAT HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE GOI SAID ONLY THAT MARSHALL WORKS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS, CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH LABORATORIES, BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS.

3. DUE TO THE EXTREMELY CRITICAL INDIAN REACTION IN THE PRESS AND THE PARLIAMENT DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS ON OTHER JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS THAT HAVE, IN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE U. S. MILITARY, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THIS PROJECT HAS GONE THIS FAR WITHOUT THE EMBASSY OR THE GOI BEING AWARE OF ANY US MILITARY CONNECTION. WE ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED THAT OTHER PROJECTS CURRENTLY ON OUR BOOKS AND APPROVED BY THE GOI MAY FALL INTO THE SAME CATEGORY OF HAVING SOME ASSOCIATION WITH US MILITARY LABORATORIES. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO PRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 01472 311910Z

POSING SUCH PROJECTS TO THE GOI AT THIS TIME (ALTHOUGH OUR VIEW ON THIS COULD CHANGE) BUT FEEL MOST STRONGLY THAT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT MUST BE AWARE OF AND SPECIFICALLY APPROVE INVOLVEMENT OF ANY US-DOD-RELATED INSTALLATION OR SCIENTISTS IN NSF AND OTHER US AGENCIES' PROGRAMS IN INDIA IF WE (AND THEY) ARE TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND PROGRAMS FROM POSSIBLE FUTURE "LEFTIST" CRITICISMS.

4. TO INSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE USG AGAINST POSSIBLE  
INSINUATIONS IN THE PRESS OR FROM OTHER CIRCLES, WE FEEL  
IT ESSENTIAL TO ADVISE THE GOI OF DR. MARSHALL'S CONNECTION  
WITH THE U. S. AIR FORCE IN WRITING AND OBTAIN THEIR  
WRITTEN CONCURRENCE THAT HIS VISIT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE  
AT THIS TIME. IN ORDER TO DO THIS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE  
FURTHER INFORMATION ON DR. MARSHALL'S BACKGROUND AND HOW  
THIS PROJECT AND THE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH IT FITS RELATES  
TO USAF RESEARCH INTERESTS AND PROGRAMS. ALSO WHAT OTHER  
MAJOR RESEARCH FACILITIES HE PROPOSES TO VISIT IN ADDITION  
TO THE BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY, AND FOR WHAT PURPOSES.  
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